

APPROVED BY
Erin Shaughnessy



Lakewood Animal Safety & Welfare Advisory Board

August 21, 2019 Meeting

Location: Lakewood City Hall

Present: Board Members: Erin Shaughnessy, Phyllis Dykes, Nancy McDonnell, Emily Christescu, Emily Petro, Nancy Binder, Cassie Gaffney, Juleen Russell, ACO Jack Crawford

Not present: Councilperson Tristan Rader

Lakewood Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes Wednesday August 21, 2019

I. Welcome and roll call conducted by Board Member Shaughnessy. 8 voting members present.

II. Discussion of After-Hours Protocol for At-Large and Injured Animals with Mayor Summers & Ms. Strachan

- a. Mayor Summers appreciates the good data brought forward by the board's proposal and asks that we think of it practically, financially and with safety in mind. He states most of the after-hours dogs are picked up within a couple houses of where they live, and questions if the dogs should technically be considered "at-large" and if we incurred a big expense to get them home as an ACO is called in and paid for a minimum of 4 hours of overtime, i.e. could we determine if the dog would get home, or did we create more work for city workers? The mayor also questions what is the boundary of an after-hours dog at-large? Board Chair Shaughnessy asks how we know how often that a dog is picked up within a couple houses of where it lives? The mayor reports 7 events since early June, where dogs were found close by their homes, with 1 incident of a cat reported injured, but upon arrival the ACO determined the cat was not injured. The mayor states as a practical matter, these are not lost stray dogs, while Chairwoman Shaughnessy states they are dogs at-large. ACO Crawford notes the response time is 30 minutes or so in those cases. It was noted those citizens chose not to hold the at-large dogs overnight or take the dogs to MedVet.
- b. The dogs reported as after-hours dogs at-large since June did not have identification. The dog owners were not charged with a dog at-large or dog missing identification as it was a first offense. However, a second offense would incur a ticket. ACO Crawford explains the Cuyahoga County website has a lost dog page where you can type in dog tags to identify registered animals, which is the same site to license a dog online. The mayor notes we should strive to have dogs wear ID tags.
- c. Board Chair Shaughnessy describes an old policy where a police officer collected the after-hours at-large animal in and secured it a cage at the shelter overnight

with a cage card. She questions if we could resume that policy rather than calling an off duty ACO to intervene or asking citizens to hold at-large animals overnight or transport them to MedVet. If training is needed, the board has a standing offer from a dog trainer that is willing to work with the officers and with such few instances of after-hours at-large dogs, perhaps this wouldn't be burdensome to handle. ACO Crawford notes that in previous years there was an issue of animals occasionally being held without the cage card and mentions that he was at some point informed that police officers are not allowed to carry dogs in their cars and they are not trained to handle the dogs at this time. In the scenario where a police officer can cage an at-large animal after hours, the mayor notes it depends on the priority with what's happening at that point in time because a dog might not be a priority if it is a busy night. The mayor states he would not want to call someone after hours for a cat because cats are not as dangerous or menacing; perhaps a citizen could hold the cat until the next day. The board says the answer may be different with colder weather.

- d. Board member Russell has worked with Berea for twenty years and notes they have one ACO and if they are not on duty, a police officer takes the animal, transports it and puts information on the cage. Residents can meet the officer at the shelter with the injured animal and hand it over.
- e. Mayor Summers asks about the process for cats at-large after hours. The board states a priority could be made for injured cats, but we need to be prepared if a citizen cannot hold a cat after hours and/or is not willing to transport it.
- f. Board Chair Shaughnessy asks that we prioritize injured animals and those that can cause a safety issue, with animal welfare and safety for citizens in mind. The protocol recommendation of calling an ACO after hours came from Captain Stone, although the board's initial protocol recommendation was to return to the original procedure. We did not want to encourage citizens to drive dogs they don't know and it is a twenty minute drive to MedVet Brookpark. If an animal is brought to MedVet, how does Lakewood Animal Control know the animal is there and who is responsible for the potential accident if something terrible happens?
- g. County rates of registration have gone up, but only a third of dogs are registered. Lakewood law states dogs must be registered.
- h. The mayor will speak to Chief Malley and Captain Stone and check back with the board. He plans to respond by September 18th about police officers after hours vs ACOs, the dogs in police cars issue, work rules regarding police officers doing animal control type work and how we can collect more data. Mayor Summers is concerned with the minimum 4 -hour charge associated with the union contract for officers working after hours.
- i. Community outreach and education about the at-large after-hours process and identification for animals is needed once a protocol is finalized.
- j. Ms. Strachan has the updated FAQ page with the board's input and will work with ACO Hearn to make the final changes.

III. Approval of July Meeting Minutes - Board

- a. Unanimous verbal vote in favor of motion to waive formal reading of the minutes.
No discussion on minutes as presented. Motion passes to approve the minutes.

IV. Lakewood Animal Control Report (ACO Crawford)

- a. 1 dog is up for adoption and 6 cats.
- b. The shelter needs volunteers to foster animals.

NEW BUSINESS

V. 2019 Committees/Working Groups Plan Updates

- a. 2019 Plan (Shaughnessy)
 - i. Defer to next month.
- a. Wildlife Education & Outreach (Shaughnessy)
 - i. No update.
- c. Dog Ordinances (Shaughnessy)
 - i. No update.
- d. Spay and Neuter Education and Outreach (Binder)
 - i. Spay/Neuter day is set for October 17th.
 - ii. Space in the van will determine how many dogs can be transported.
 - lii. Board to make a post for this event to be shared in September.
- e. Community Events (McDonnell)
 - i. Defer to next month.
- f. Dog Bite Prevention Education (Shaughnessy)
 - i. Contact was made with the library and they will accept our dog safety books or an art project.
- g. Communications (Russell)
 - i. Defer to next month.

VI. Communications

- a. Status of recently submitted posts
 - i. No update.
- b. September
 - i. Happy, Healthy Cat Month: motion made to submit post; motion seconded; motion passes.
 - ii. Spay/Neuter Day Promotion: motion made to submit with updates to dates and specifics; motion seconded; motion passes.

No public comment.

Motion is made to adjourn; motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.